Subject: Counterstamped Spanish coins

Langstroth, L.A.

[St. John, New Brunswick
Canada]

1922

St. John NB.
Feb. 20/22

Mr Howland Wood

Dear Sir.

I am taking the liberty of sending to you photos of two pieces for your opinion. Some old collectors here claim they were used in Prince Edward Island. The rim passing for $1.00 or 5 Shillings and the centre plug for 9 pence. I know of some 11 Specimens, They are have ~~[illegible]~~ radiant sun Counterstamp and about half of them an additional stamp of Crown & V.

As you are an authority on these pieces would you kindly give me your Opinion on the above

Yours Sincerely

L. A. Langstroth
A.N.A. 2193

36 Sydney St
St. John, N.B.
Canada

P.S. You may keep photos if you wish.

February 25th, 1922

Mr. L. A. Langstroth
36 Sydney Street
St. John, N.B. Canada

Dear Sir:

Your letter concerning some old counter-stamped Spanish pieces interests me very much. Pieces with a similar sun stamp have generally been assigned to the island of Vieque in the West Indies, and so far are only known counterstamped on some small base metal pieces. Personally, I have never been satisfied with this attribution. I see no reason at all to believe that the pieces you show were stamped for use in the Prince Edward Island. If any had been found there, and there is any sort of tradition that such was the case and they are obtainable, we should like the chance to acquire as many of the different varieties as possible, as this museum has always had a special interest in counter-stamped pieces pertaining to this continent.

Is it possible to make enquiry in the island and see if these pieces cannot be confirmed?

Thanking you for calling my attention to the matter, I beg to remain

Very truly yours,

HW/B

Curator

St. John N.B.
Feb. 27/22

Mr Howland Wood

Dear Sir –

Thank you very much for your opinion of pieces mentioned. These pieces have all come from the Island, personally I know of 11 of them, 9 without plug and 2 with plug. 9 of them are Spanish. 1 English (5 Shilling or Dollar of 1804) photo sent. and 1 5 Francs France

Two or three old collectors here claim their father knew of them being used. I wrote to an old man in P.E.I. who has one and he wrote as follows. "Have alway understood that sometime about 1826 the then Governor (Smith) of P.E.I. to put embargo on shipment of Silver and also to create needed change authorized or ordered the cutting out of a small portion of the Spanish Dollars, Crown pieces etc, largely in circulation on the Island. The cut out portion passing for nine pence and original coin for its former full value." In the "History of the Canadian Bank of Commerce" issued recently there is a cut of the coin with information similar to the above.

I personaly have been unable to procure a specimen, although have had several on view.

Further have tried to find out if there were any records of any such authorization as mentioned above, in the annals of the P.E.I government but so far have not been successful.

At first was skeptical concerning them, but two of these old collectors (who both own specimens) are so persistant in their belief that I determined to try and find out something. However while these pieces may have been found on the Island does not prove they were specially struck or rather countermarked for that purpose.

It also seems strange to me that some should only be countermarked a sun while other have V and Crown. in addition.

Yours Sincerely

L. T. Langstroth

26 Sydney St.
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